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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,625	10/22/2001	Stephen J. Hawkins	56937US002	1418

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EXAMINER

ZIRKER, DANIEL R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit 1771

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. The Examiner notes that applicants have cancelled all of the pending claims 1-22, and substituted new claims 23-45, which are directed to very similar subject matter and will be accordingly examined.

3. Claims 23-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al. taken in view of either Davison or Hansen et al., and in further view of St. Coeur et al. taken as evidence of the state of the art. To partially reiterate, the primary reference discloses (note particularly column 8 lines 50-56, as well as column 1 lines 6-10, column 3 lines 6-29, column 4 lines 14-19, column 6 lines 42-59, column 7 lines 3-13, and column 8 lines 35-49) a genus of primers suitable for improving the adhesion of a pressure sensitive adhesive to a substrate such as a polymer film backing, i.e. a tape, the primer comprising a triblock copolymer of styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene grafted with maleic anhydride mixed with an amorphous polypropylene. Additionally, the pressure sensitive adhesive may be cross-linked by a photoactive cross-linking agent such as those which are well known in the art. The reference lacks the teaching of the presence of a suitable "resin" such as a hydrocarbon resin which may be hydrogenated. Each of the

secondary references, however, discloses (note particularly Davison, the Abstract, column 1 lines 29-40, column 2 lines 40-57, claim 1; Hansen et al., the Abstract, column 1 lines 42-45, column 2 line 25 - column 3 line 28) the presence of a suitable resin such as an olefinic hydrocarbon resin (Davison) or an end block compatible resin such as an aromatic resin (Hansen et al.), each resin further utilized in a closely related primer composition having a functionalized elastomeric block copolymer as one of its components. Additionally, note St. Coeur et al. (the Abstract, column 1 line 47 - column 2 line 13, column 3 lines 1-28, the Example) for a teaching of the utilization of cross-linking agents in primer compositions. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill, motivated by an expectation of improved bonding properties in primer compositions suitable for adhering pressure sensitive adhesives to a desired substrate with an adhesive tape and the like would accordingly incorporate either of the resins set forth in each of the secondary references together with a suitable crosslinking agent into the primer compositions of Babu et al., and thereby either form, or clearly render obvious, the claimed genus of primer compositions which are utilized in the pressure sensitive adhesive tape articles set forth in applicants' independent article claim and corresponding method of making claim 45. Other parameters that are not either expressly

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or inherently disclosed are each believed to be at most obvious optimizations to one of ordinary skill, in the absence of unexpected results.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Zirker whose telephone number is (571) 272-1486. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris, can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Serial No. 10/014,625

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Dzirker:cdc

May 5, 2005

**DANIEL ZIRKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Daniel Zinker